





Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST)

Continuing the Focus on Data Quality

Ron Stewart

- Overview of FAST and how vehicle fleet data is reviewed
- Preliminary review of FY 2019 fleet dataset
 - How does it compare to prior year?
 - Where do we see trouble spots?
- Recommendations
- Discussion

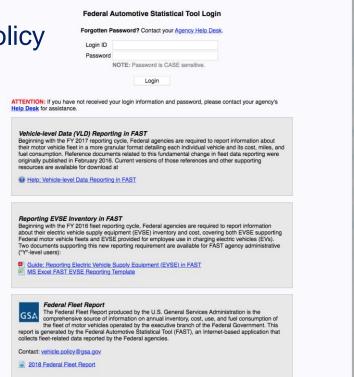


What is FAST?

Collaborative project funded and managed by



- GSA's Office of Government-wide Policy
- DOE's Federal Energy Management Program
- Energy Information Administration
- Collects multiple federal vehicle fleet datasets
 - Vehicles & operational data (costs, miles, fuel)
 - Fleet budget data
 - Fueling infrastructure data





FAST: Why do we care about data quality?

- Based on how the data is used:
 - Regulatory & EO compliance determination
 - Required publications
 - Policy evaluation and development
 - Information resource for analysis
- Based on increased interest in Federal vehicle fleet
 - ... inside and outside the government
 - ... particularly since the transition to pervehicle reporting







FAST: Why do we care about data quality?

- Implications of questionable data quality
 - Inaccurate compliance determination
 - Decreased confidence in compliance determination
 - Decreased confidence in dataset for other uses
 - Policy development and evaluation
 - Information resource for analysis
- Presumably this is the data agencies are using to manage their fleets
- Knowing where the potential quality concerns are is a key part of improving the quality





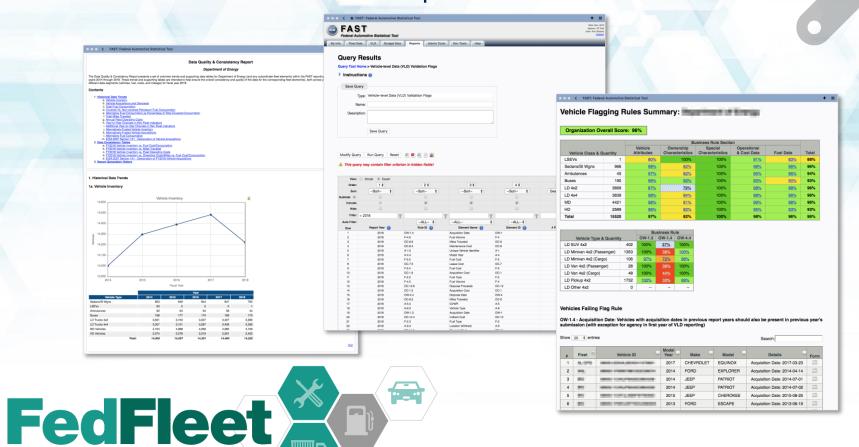


- As the data is reported:
 - Data must pass validation as it is loaded
 - 150+ "blocking" checks for basic validity
 - Data also screened for reasonability
 - 25+ "flagging" checks
 - Checks are documented in FAST's "Vehicle-Level Data Business Rules Reference"





- After it has been loaded in FAST:
 - Pre-defined reports
 - User-defined ad hoc queries



- When agency designates submission as complete:
 - FAST team reviews agency submission
 - FAST team provides written summary of noted items
 - Agency responds to review summary
 - FAST re-opened for corrections identified by agency
 - FAST team assembles review results and agency responses into dashboard





- FAST team review looks at two levels
 - Macro: high-level consistency
 - Unexpected shifts in fleet size or makeup?
 - Inconsistent shifts in costs, miles, fuel?



- Year-to-year consistency
- Fuel efficiency (e.g., mileage or fuel)
- Use of "placeholders" for vehicle information
- DOE review looks primarily at compliance
 - Identifies issues impacting compliance









- Data call officially closed 2019-12-16
 - 44 of 50 expected agencies completed on time
 - 4 additional agencies complete before 2020-01-01
 - 2 small agencies incomplete (~60 vehicles)



- Preliminary review summaries provided to on-time agencies shortly after completion
 - First three agencies had summaries by 2019-11-15
- Significant improvements:
 - Agencies are reporting sooner
 - Agencies are receiving feedback sooner





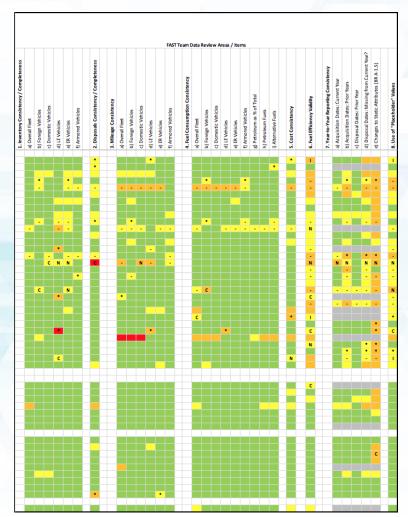
FY 2019 review dashboard

Legend

- No significant issues noted
- Issue(s) noted; may be limited in scope or impact
- Issue(s) noted; significant in scope and/or impact
- Issue(s) noted; missing or highly suspect data
- Not evaluated











FY 2019

- Where do we see trouble spots?
 - M1 & M7: Year-to-year consistency of vehicle reporting
 - Missing / inconsistent reporting of vehicles
 - Changes in "static" vehicle attributes
 - M6: Fuel and mileage at the vehicle level
 - M8: Use of "placeholder" values for vehicle attributes
 - Particularly for vehicle fuel and mileage





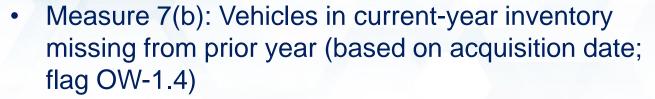




- Trouble spots: Year-to-year consistency of vehicle reporting
 - Measure 1(a): overall inventory (example)
 - Total inventory discrepancies: 15,389 vehicles



- Measure 7(a): Current-year acquisitions also reported in prior year (flag OW-1.3)
 - Total: 2,681 vehicles



Total: 23,800 vehicles







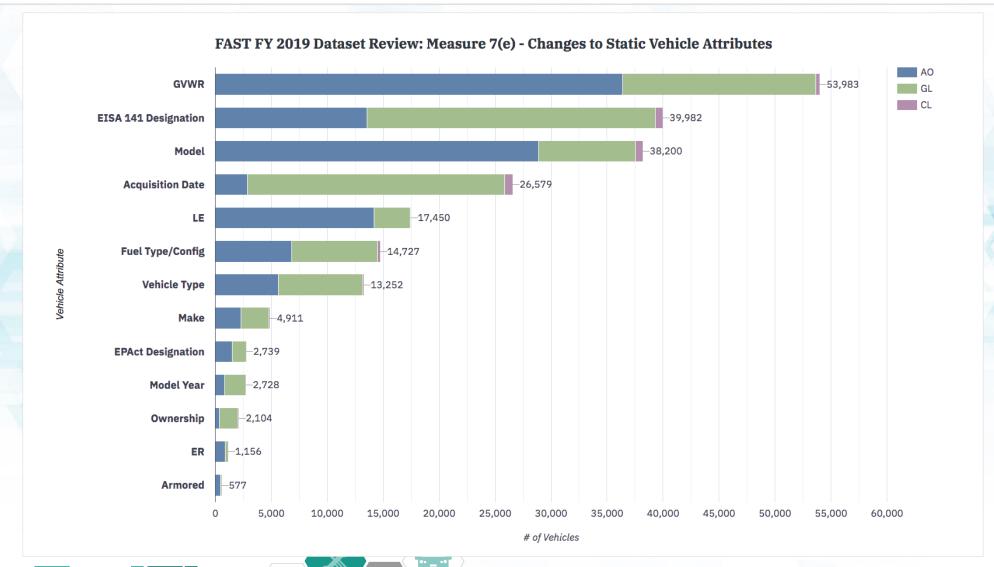
- Trouble spots: Year-to-year consistency of vehicle reporting (continued)
 - Measure 7(c): Prior-year disposals also present in current year (flag OW 4.4)
 - Total: 1,104 vehicles
 - Measure 7(d): Vehicles in prior year inventory missing from current year:
 - Total: 18,743 vehicles
 - Measure 7(e): Vehicles with year-to-year changes to "static" attributes (flag A-1.5)
 - *Total: 114,680 vehicles*













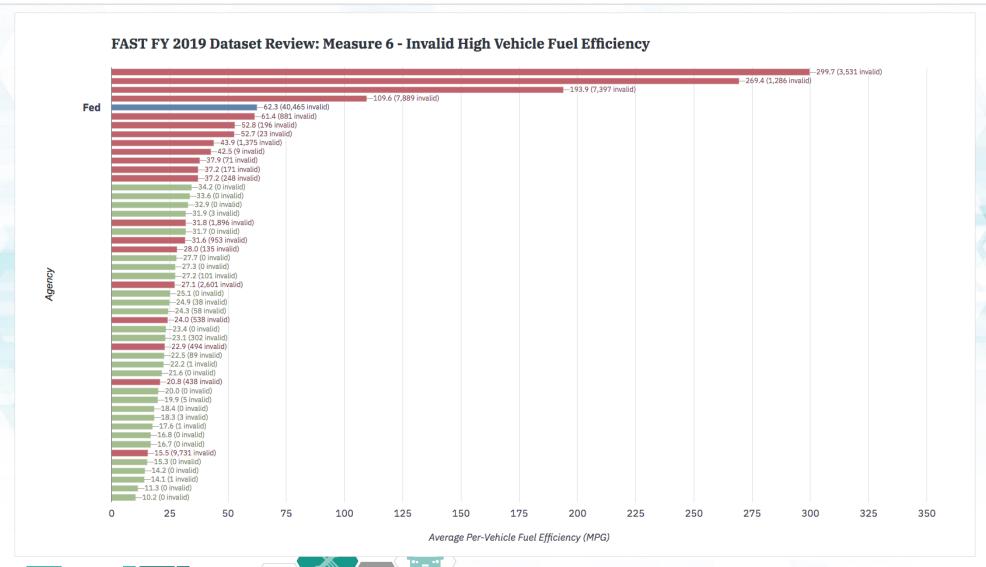
- Trouble spots: Fuel and mileage at the vehicle level
 - Measure 6: vehicles with invalid high fuel efficiency (flag F-4.6)
 - Further limited to vehicles w/miles > 1,000
 - Total: 40,465 of 581,798 vehicles
 - 5 agencies with > 10% of vehicles flagged
 - Invalid data skews agency and federal pervehicle average fuel efficiency













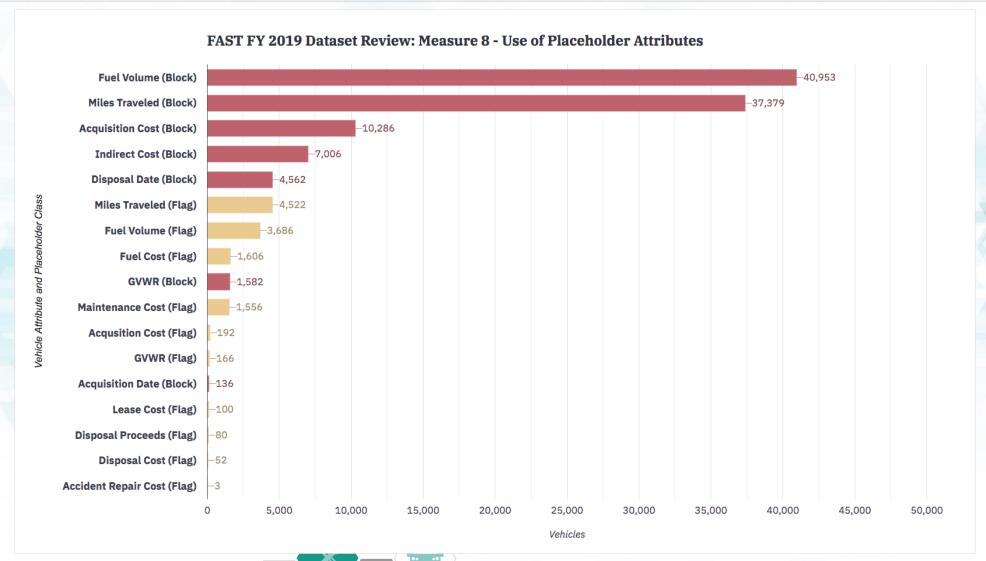
- Trouble spots: Placeholder values
 - Placeholder: vehicle attribute which exactly matches business rule thresholds for blocking or flagging data
 - Raises question about "real" data
 - 72,030 vehicles (of 698,441) reported with one or more placeholder attributes
 - 101,904 blocking placeholders
 - 11,963 flagging placeholders













Recommendations

- Maintain perspective:
 - Understanding where the problems are is A Good Thing™
 - Improving quality is a (potentially lengthy) process
- Continue the focus on timely reporting
- Use available tools to identify, investigate problem areas
 - Flags during data loading process
 - Available reports
 - Results from reviews (and supporting detail)
- Look for coming changes on the data collection side











Discussion



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